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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,271	04/08/2004	Daniel G. Giovale	KAHTOOLA-2	9490

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EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARIE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3728

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/821,271	Applicant(s) GIOVALE, DANIEL G.	
	Examiner Marie Patterson	Art Unit 3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10-13, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grivel Courmayeur Crampon (cited by applicant on 3/10/05) in view of Piazza (3685173) or Zock (4910883).

Grivel Courmayer shows a crampon with heel and forefoot spiked members connected by a flexible multiplate linkage (see second page of article, first column, lines 7-10) and the flexible linkage is shown as being flexible to about 90 degrees in the photographs cited by applicant in the Grivel Courmayer Crampon disclosure statement filed 3/10/05 substantially as claimed except for a pivotal heel piece. Piazza or Zock teaches providing a pivotal heel piece (28-33 or 68) on a heel region of a traction system. It would have been obvious to provide a pivotal heel piece as taught by Piazza or Zock in the crampon of Grivel Courmayer to reduce the weight and cost of the crampon.

In reference to claim 12, Piazza or Zock shows slots inasmuch as applicant has shown such.

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3. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 10-13, 16, and 17 above further in view of Peyser (4344238).

Grivel Courmayer as modified above shows a crampon with heel and forefoot spiked members connected by a flexible multiplate linkage (see second page of article, first column, lines 7-10) and the flexible linkage is shown as being flexible to about 90 degrees in the photographs cited by applicant in the Grivel Courmayer Crampon disclosure statement filed 3/10/05 substantially as claimed except for the exact material for the heel and forefoot spiked members. Peyser teaches the use of plastic materials as an alternative for metals and other materials for heel and forefoot spiked members (see column 4 lines 44-45). It would have been obvious to use plastic as taught by Peyser for the spiked members in the crampon of Grivel Courmayer as modified above to reduce the weight and cost of the crampon.

4. Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNeil (4525939) in view of Peyser (4344238).

McNeil shows a crampon with heel and forefoot spiked members connected by a flexible linkage (24') and the flexible linkage substantially as claimed except for the exact material for the heel and forefoot spiked members. Peyser teaches the use of plastic materials as an alternative for metals and other materials for heel and forefoot spiked members (see column 4 lines 44-45). It would have been obvious to use plastic as taught by Peyser for the spiked members in the crampon of McNeil to reduce the weight and cost of the crampon.

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In reference to the exact amount of flexing allowed by the flexible linkage, due to the corrugated shape, the flexible linkage is considered to inherently be able to flex up to 90 degrees as claimed.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 24-28 are allowed.

1. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (572)272-8300 **(FORMAL FAXES ONLY)**. Please identify Examiner Marie Patterson of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Marie Patterson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4559. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM Mon-Wed.



Marie Patterson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728